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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	:	Jeffrey Lynn Haddox, Roswell Robert Pfister, James Edwin Blalock, and Matteo Villain
Serial No.	:	To be assigned
Filed	:	Herewith
For	:	SYNTHETIC COMPLEMENTARY PEPTIDES AND OPHTHALMOLOGIC USES THEREOF

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

"Express Mail" mailing label No. EL613312445US
Date of Deposit: September 28, 2001
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.
Name: Lisa M. Melanson
Signature: Lisa Melanson

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Att'n: Box Patent Application

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 7 with the following:

Cross-reference to Related Application

This patent application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/521,365, filed March 8, 2000, and entitled "SYNTHETIC COMPLEMENTARY PEPTIDES AND OPHTHALMOLOGIC USES THEREOF", the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety, which claims benefit of provisional patent application U.S. Serial number 60/123,409, filed March 9, 1999.

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 7 with the following:

The present invention demonstrates an application of the molecular recognition theory, which is the generation of therapeutic agents that may be used to treat disease. Using this approach, a series of complementary peptides for the pro-gly-pro (SEQ ID NO:1) sequence were designed, synthesized, and tested as antagonists of the PMN chemoattractant, N-acetyl-PGP.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, line 7 with the following:

The neutrophil chemoattractant, –acetyl-PGP, plays a major role in the initiation of polymorphonuclear leukocyte (PMN) invasion into the alkali-injured eye. In the current study, sense-antisense methodology was used to develop complementary peptides as potential inhibitors of N-acetyl-PGP. The polarization assay was used to measure the potential chemotactic response of polymorphonuclear leukocytes to synthetic N-acetyl-PGP, the ultrafiltered tripeptide chemoattractants obtained from alkali-degraded rabbit corneas, or leukotriene B_4. Inhibition was expressed as the peptide concentration required to produce 50% inhibition (ID_{50}) of polarization. Five complementary peptides were tested as potential inhibitors of N-acetyl-PGP: RTR (SEQ ID NO:2), RTRGG (SEQ ID NO:3), RTR dimer, RTR tetramer, and ASA (SEQ ID NO:4) tetramer. In addition, the RTR tetramer and both monomeric peptides (RTR and RTRGG) were tested, separately, for inhibition of the ultrafiltered tripeptide chemoattractants or LTB_4.

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-9 without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue prosecution of these claims in a later-filed continuation or divisional application.